

## **Amendment # 3110 - Unobligated Balances of the Department of Defense**

This amendment would require a report from the Secretary of Defense to tell Congress about any discretionary, unexpired federal funding that has been available for more than two consecutive years.

Nearly every federal department ends each year with billions of dollars in unobligated funding and the Department of Defense is no different. Unlike obligated funding that has not yet been spent, unobligated funds are not set aside for a specific purpose to be funded in the near future.

According to the Office of Management and Budget the **Department of Defense ended the 2012 fiscal year with \$105 billion in unobligated funds.**

Some of the unobligated funds are related to Afghanistan and Iraq, and will inevitably be spent.

While it is applaudable that government bureaucrats are not spending every dollar that they are entrusted, this staggering amount of unspent money exposes the mismanagement of our defense finances – which currently cannot pass a financial audit.

Every year, Congress borrows hundreds of billions of dollars to pay for increases for programs that end each year with billions of dollars in unobligated money.

This simple reporting requirement just says that the Department of Defense must post online the unobligated balances by account and not just the overall number. This basic move to transparency will help Congress and the public see how our unclassified Defense dollars are being spent or in this case not spent.

This should also be a sobering reminder about the massive concern over sequestration. **The current amount of unobligated and unspent defense dollars is twice the amount that is feared to be cut under sequestration.** The American people deserve to see this information.